

IT'S MIDNIGHT OVER NEWARK

Part Two

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(THE HOUSE LIGHTS FADE. THE FOOT-
LIGHTS GO UP. MUSIC SUDDENLY ENDS
ON A NOTE OF DETERMINATION)

SOUND A DEEP BASE CYMBAL STRUCK BY HAMMER TWELVE TIMES.

LOUDSPEAKER Attention, please! Attention, please! Where is
Mr. Smith? Where is Miss. Jones?

(BOY AND GIRL ENTER FROM LEFT AND
TAKE UP POSITION BEFORE CURTAIN
WHICH IS DOWN, DOWN STAGE LEFT)

BOY Here we are.

GIRL We're still here.

(MEANWHILE THE NEGRO COUPLE OF
PART ONE HAVE COME DOWN AISLE
OUT FRONT AND STAND FACING AUDI-
ENCE IN THE SAME SPOT AS BEFORE)

WIFE Can't you ever find the seat?

HUSBAND Take it easy, will you! Now let's see: where are
we?

WIFE Right in the middle....where we always are!

HUSBAND Ain't it the truth?!

(NEGRO COUPLE CROSSES TO AISLE
AND ARE TAKEN IN HAND BY AN USHER)

LOUDSPEAKER We had asked a question. Remember? We had asked:
What is a Negro?

BOY I thought I knew what a Negro was. But....Mandy's
family! She used to work right in our house. Yet,
I never had an idea she....she....

GIRL Mandy was in trouble. Her entire family was in
trouble. And that minister who wanted to help.
What could he do?

(FADE FOOTLIGHTS ON GIRL'S LINES
ABOVE.)

BOY We're in the dark.

LOUDSPEAKER Most of the Smiths and the Joneses in Newark are in the dark. And there are a lot of Smiths and Joneses here.

(CURTAIN RISES IN DARKNESS.)

GIRL Is it fair to keep us in the dark like this?

LOUDSPEAKER Are you alarmed, Miss. Jones?

GIRL Why shouldn't I be alarmed?

LOUDSPEAKER What alarms you, Miss. Jones?

GIRL Just a little while ago, I saw a sick woman a-
fraid! I heard her speak of the City Hospital
as if....as if it were a Concentration Camp in
Nazi Germany!

BOY Yeah! That's pretty serious. And another thing:
There was something or other about a colored doc-
tor. What about these Negro doctors? Where do they
fit in around here?

(FADE IN LIGHT, RIGHT, DISCLOSING
WELL DRESSED YOUNG NEGRO.)

GIRL Let's have some light on this. (SEES LIGHT) Oh!

DOCTOR A I believe the question to be: "What about these
Negro doctors? Where do they fit in, in Newark?"

LOUDSPEAKER Could you, sir, supply us with an answer?

DOCTOR A I am a living example of the answer.

LOUDSPEAKER Will you speak, sir?

DOCTOR A May I begin with a thumbnail sketch of my back-
ground?

LOUDSPEAKER If you wish.

DOCTOR A Thank you.

GIRL Before this man speaks, may Mr. Smith and I have a bit of light?

BOY Yeah! The literal kind.

LOUDSPEAKER Certainly you may have light.

(FADE IN SPOT OVER BOY AND GIRL
DOWN LEFT.)

BOY Now, let the guy speak his piece.

DOCTOR A (BOWS TO BOY AND GIRL) Thank you.

LOUDSPEAKER You wanted to speak of your background first.

DOCTOR A Yes. (CHANGE OF TONE) Before the Great Depression, one tenth of the Negro population in these United States had managed to accumulate enough of these worldly goods to enjoy an adequate degree of economic security.

LOUDSPEAKER You speak of "before the Great Depression?" Why?

DOCTOR A While the Depression struck at the economy of all peoples and classes in this country, its heaviest blows were felt by Negro people. They are the last to be hired and the first to be fired.

LOUDSPEAKER And this one tenth of the Negro population which had adequate economic security before the Depression? What of them?

DOCTOR A Their numbers are less than before the Depression.

LOUDSPEAKER "The last to be hired and the first to be fired" And to what may we attribute this?

DOCTOR A To color and race.

BOY Why both color and race? Why not one or the other?

DOCTOR A Because race is always the primary factor whenever prejudice creates a problem. The color of a man's skin is a secondary factor. Color but aggravates whatever stigma is attached to race.

GIRL I'm sorry. But I don't understand.

LOUDSPEAKER May I help?

DOCTOR A Certainly.

LOUDSPEAKER Very well. (AS SIX OR SEVEN VERY PRETTY GIRLS ENTER FROM LEFT AND ARE SPOTTED BY LIGHT FADING IN DEAD CENTER) Now here are a group of young ladies. With what race would you identify them by merely looking at them?

GIRL I'd say.... Why they're white women! They're all as white as I am!

LOUDSPEAKER But some of them are Negroes, Miss. Jones.

GIRL What!

1ST YOUNG LADY (STEPPING FORWARD) I am a Negro.

2ND YOUNG LADY (STEPPING FORWARD) I am a Negro.

3RD YOUNG LADY (STEPPING FORWARD) And I am a Negro.

(THE OTHER YOUNG GIRLS STEP BACK)

GIRL This is all so.... so very.... I don't know what to say.

(LIGHT DEAD CENTER FADES AND YOUNG LADIES EXIT LEFT.)

DOCTOR A May I continue now?

LOUDSPEAKER You may.

DOCTOR A I was speaking of that one tenth of the Negro population which was adequately economically secure. My family was among that group.

LOUDSPEAKER Where were you born, sir?

DOCTOR A I was born in Newark. I attended the Newark public schools. When I finished college, I went to a Class A Medical school.

LOUDSPEAKER What happened when you graduated from there?

DOCTOR A I discovered there wasn't a single hospital in the State of New Jersey which would accept me as an intern.

LOUDSPEAKER But you did become an intern?

DOCTOR A Yes. But not in this state. I interned in an out-of-state hospital. ~~Where~~ in this State?

LOUDSPEAKER Then what did you do?

DOCTOR A I took the New Jersey State Board examination so that I might practice medicine here, in Newark.

LOUDSPEAKER Did you pass that examination?

DOCTOR A I did.

LOUDSPEAKER Was the State Board Examination you took any different from one a young white physician would take?

DOCTOR A White men took the same examination I took, at the same time, and at the same place.

LOUDSPEAKER What did you do next?

DOCTOR A I set up an office in Newark. I made applications to the staffs of the hospitals in Newark.

LOUDSPEAKER Were you accepted on the staff at any hospital here?

DOCTOR A One small hospital accepted me.

LOUDSPEAKER Which one was that?

DOCTOR A The Community Hospital.

BOY Oh well! What's all the kick about? This guy's doing alright!

GIRL Sure! I don't see that this man has anything to worry about.

LOUDSPEAKER Mr. Smith and Miss. Jones: for your information, The Community Hospital is the only Negro hospital in New Jersey.

BOY So what! So what!

LOUDSPEAKER It is a private institution. It was founded in 192 by Dr. John A. Kenney, a Negro, who hoped that he, in some small measure, might contribute to the welfare and comfort of the sick among his people.

BOY And what did his people do about it?

LOUDSPEAKER All they could. They pitched in with all they had. They gave until it hurt. And they're still giving.

DOCTOR A I might add: that, while Community Hospital has only thirty beds, it accepts indigent patients.

BOY What's an indigent?

LOUDSPEAKER A person who, through no fault of his own, cannot pay for the care he receives.

BOY Oh!

LOUDSPEAKER Doctor?

DOCTOR A Yes?

LOUDSPEAKER Does Community Hospital practice any shape, form or manner of discrimination?

DOCTOR A It accepts and has white patients. White physician are always welcome. And many of them, more than often, give their services to the institution free of charge.

BOY (TO GIRL) You know: I've been thinking.

GIRL What about?

BOY Maybe all the Negroes ain't just like we pictured 'em. For instance here's a colored doctor. Talks like he's been around. Talks like he can do things

(LIGHT OVER DOCTOR A HAS FADED)

LOUDSPEAKER As you said a little while ago, Mr. Smith, there are people and people.

(MUSIC IS IN SIGNALING PROCESSIONAL IN EPISCOPAL CHURCH.)

BOY Yeah!

LOUDSPEAKER By way of example: here is a Negro church which is a little different from Mandy's church.

(LIGHTS GO UP AND PROCESSIONAL OF EPISCOPAL CHURCH ENTERS FROM LEFT AND EXITS RIGHT.)

(MUSIC IS OUT AND LIGHTS FADE LEAVING BOY AND GIRL IN SPOT DOWN LEFT)

LOUDSPEAKER Did you know there were religious services like that among Negroes in Newark, Mr. Smith?

BOY Well.... After all! How can a guy get around to everything?

LOUDSPEAKER That's the point, Mr. Smith. He can't.

GIRL If you don't mind, I'd like to know more about the City Hospital.

BOY Me too!

LOUDSPEAKER The City Hospital is a building....like other buildings.

BOY Oh, come now!

LOUDSPEAKER It's address is one-sixteen Fairmount Avenue in Newark.

(FADE IN LIGHT, RIGHT, DISCLOSING
WHITE WOMAN.)

WOMAN According to a pamphlet written by the New Jersey Writers' Project the Newark City Hospital is with-
in the control of the Department of Public Works.

LOUDSPEAKER The hospital is intended for the city's indigent sick and disabled and for emergency aid in acci-
dents or sudden illnesses.

WOMAN The City Hospital has seven hundred beds, forty bassinets and four ambulances.

LOUDSPEAKER The pamphlet written by the New Jersey Writers' Project and published this year, 1941, says that the City Hospital has a doctors' staff of two hundred and ten in all with seven doctors on the house staff and twenty-seven interns and residents

WOMAN The hospital also has seventy graduate nurses, one hundred student nurses and three hundred and ninety other workers.

LOUDSPEAKER The City Hospital is well equipped.

(DOCTOR B, A WHITE PHYSICIAN, EN-
TERS SPOT WITH WOMAN, RIGHT.)

WOMAN The City Hospital has excellent training facilities of benefit to physicians.

BOY I thought doctors got trained in Med. School.

DOCTOR B Let me reply to that. I'm a physician. I know.

BOY It's okay with me!

DOCTOR B Well equipped hospitals and clinics constitute the only sources of practical training for physicians after medical school and internship. A physician must never cease this type of training if he would fully discharge his sworn duty to

DOCTOR B (Cont'd) humanity.

1ST MINISTER (ENTERS FROM RIGHT AND CROSSES TO LIGHT WITH WOMAN AND DOCTOR B.) But what about my people?

DOCTOR B Well? What about your people?

LOUDSPEAKER This about his people: The mortality rate of Negroes here is strikingly higher than that of whites, and especially is this true of those ill caused by malnutrition, exposure or congested living conditions.

DOCTOR B Where did that statement come from?

LOUDSPEAKER It came from the "second report of the New Jersey State Commission On The Condition Of The Urban Colored Population". The Commission was created by the New Jersey Legislature.

GIRL If Negro physicians need hospital training facilities, why don't they go to The Community Hospital?

DOCTOR A (ENTERS FROM RIGHT AND STANDS WITH WOMAN AND DOCTOR B AND 1ST MINISTER) Negro physicians do go to Community Hospital. But that institution is a small, private hospital. Its facilities are limited.

LOUDSPEAKER Dr. Kenney, the founder of Community Hospital, had this to say in an open letter addressed to the hospital boards and white practitioners of Essex County: "The Negro population of our community is too weighed down with poverty to construct a modern institution!"

BOY Yeah! But things are bad all over.

GIRL How many Negro doctors are there in Newark?

DOCTOR A In the strict sense of residence, there are twenty five Negro physicians in Newark.

LOUDSPEAKER But many more Negro physicians have their offices in Newark.

WOMAN The City Hospital is a tax supported institution.

DOCTOR A Negro physicians, who are residents of Newark, pay taxes to the City of Newark.

LOUDSPEAKER No matter how poor a Negro is, he must pay rent, buy food and clothing.

1ST MINISTER And the judges in this town make 'em pay too! Don't pay your rent, the judge will put you out on the street. Pay up or get out!

LOUDSPEAKER According to the second report made to the Legislature by the Commission on the urban colored population, "residential segregation of Negroes creates an artificial scarcity of dwellings for Negroes and a landlord monopoly which boosts rents to levels far above that paid by the white population for similar type dwellings."

1ST MINISTER Negroes might not have a tax receipt, but they pay taxes in terms of high rents. And you pay 'em or get out!

GIRL How many Negroes are there in Newark?

LOUDSPEAKER According to the census of 1920, there were 32,800 Negroes in Newark.

1ST MINISTER That don't count them the census man missed.

BOY That's a gang of colored folks!

HOUSEMAN In 1937, the Inter-racial Council estimated the negro population of Newark to be 42,000.

HOUSEMAN They still could estimate. That many colored folks live in the Third ward. And I know! Just can't catch 'em home long enough to count 'em.

JOHN And do you mean to say that there isn't one Negro physician on the staff at City Hospital? Not one Negro nurse?

HOUSEMAN Not one.

JOHN And I been asking questions of colored folks who could ask questions from white folks.

(LIGHT UP LEFT FADES IN SECRETARY OF URBAN LEAGUE AND COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS.)

(FADE LIGHT RIGHT.)

BOY What's the answer?

HOUSEMAN The Secretary of the Urban League, an organization for social work among Negroes, spoke to the Commissioner of Public Works in the City of Newark about the situation at City Hospital.

SECRETARY Mr. Commissioner, why aren't Negro physicians on the staff at City Hospital?

COMMISSIONER Well, I didn't know that there weren't Negroes on the staff at City Hospital.

SECRETARY Honor bright, Commissioner?

COMMISSIONER Well, you see it's this way: I have very little to say about matters at City Hospital.

SECRETARY But I thought City Hospital came under your Department?

COMMISSIONER In a way it does. In a way it doesn't.

SECRETARY I notice your name and your office on the station-
ary which comes from City Hospital.

COMMISSIONER Please! Please, sir! Do you think for one minute
that I'm prejudiced against Negroes? Why since
I've been in office, I've done more for....

SECRETARY (INTERLUDE) Let's start all over, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER Huh?

SECRETARY Why are Negro physicians kept off the staff of
City Hospital?

COMMISSIONER (INDIGNANT) Kept off! Why who would say such a
thing?

ROBERT BAKER Commissioner, Doctor John A. Kenney wrote an open
letter to the Essex County Medical Society in 1929
in which he said: "....the Newark City Hospital,
operated and supported by a governmental unit,
studiously excludes the physicians, interns and
nurses of the very race which most needs the ser-
vices of such a hospital!"

SECRETARY Mr. Commissioner, Doctor Kenney was writing about
negroes in that open letter.

COMMISSIONER Was he? Dear, dear, dear! He ~~should have stood in~~
~~bed.~~

SECRETARY (ASIDE) ~~Maybe I should have stood in bed....for~~
~~all the information I'm getting. (CHARGE OF FEAR)~~
I should like to have a little more definite in-
formation, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER Well, affairs at City Hospital are in the hands
of the Medical Board. And it's a Closed Corporation

gentlemen, we are here to discuss with you the possibility of Negro physicians becoming members of the hospital staff.

DOCTOR J We feel it inadvisable to discuss that question at this time.

DOCTOR A Why not discuss it, gentlemen?

DOCTOR J The members of our Medical Board are all specialists, each in his own field of medicine.

DOCTOR A Even so, don't the members of the Board need the facilities of City Hospital for further self-extended training?

DOCTOR J Certainly. We would hardly pretend to have learned all there is to know about medicine.

WOMAN Gentlemen, it seems to me you pay the Negro physician an extraordinary complement.

DOCTOR J How so, please?

WOMAN ^{the} ~~it~~ ^{has} ~~seems~~ it appear that Negro physicians have learned all there is to know about medicine. You say he doesn't need the facilities of hospitals. you admit you need.

DOCTOR J Madam, may I make this recommendation, a recommendation upon which I know my colleagues concur?

WOMAN Certainly.

DOCTOR C Ask the City of Newark to set up a separate hospital for Negroes. Ask the city to take over the Negro institution, Community Hospital.

DOCTOR E (STERNLY) This conference is at an end!

(FADE LIGHT RIGHT.)

(LIGHT UP LEFT PAGES IN SCENE,
A NEGRO; FOR COMMUNITY HOSPITAL)

FOODSPEAKER The Lawyer for the Board Of Trustees at Community Hospital makes a public statement.

Lawyer It has been proposed that the City of Newark set up a segregated public hospital for Negroes by taking over Community Hospital. May I say ~~that~~ that the Board Of Trustees at Community have met and discussed this proposition. The Board decided that Community is no more available to the city than is Presbyterian Hospital or Beth Israel or Saint Barnabas. The authorities at Community will not enter into a conspiracy with others who would deprive Negro citizens of their Constitutional Rights. City Hospital is a tax supported institution. And by the laws of this nation and by the laws of this state, Negro citizens have a legal right to become patients at City Hospital and Negro physicians have a legal right to practice medicine at City Hospital. Community Hospital will not be an instrument with which to defeat the aims and principles of American Democracy!

(FADE IN LIGHT RIGHT DISCUSSING
A, A NEGRO PHYSICIAN.)

FOODSPEAKER A Negro physician differs with Community Hospital authorities.

DOCTOR F I say let's ask the City for a separate hospital. What's the difference as long as we get a hospital? Negroes have got to have a hospital.

LAWYER

The first purpose of a hospital is to care for sick people. When sick people are divided into races, one race always loses.

DOCTOR F

How? And who loses?

LAWYER

Negroes lose! And you know it, Doctor!

LOUDBREAZER

The Duke Endowment Fund made a survey of separate public hospitals for Negroes, Doctor, and discovered these facts: The per capita daily expenditures for white patients averaged \$4.45. The per capita daily expenditures for Negro patients averaged less than half that. \$2.13 to be exact! Also the equipment was less adequate for Negroes. The available space for Negroes, further more, was less than that for whites. And this survey was made in the South where, more than often, the Negro population exceeds the white population.

DOCTOR F

What about Saint Louis? It has as big a hospital for Negroes as it has for whites.

LOUDBREAZER

The exception always proves the rule.

LAWYER

And each year in Saint Louis, Negroes always have to fight and pray and beg for the same appropriation granted the white hospital. We don't want that in Newark!

DOCTOR F

Hell! But there ain't nothing for Negroes in Newark!

LAWYER

Why don't you read the Bill of Rights! I'll not be a party to any appeasement of that Medical Board at City Hospital. I say, let's tell the people of Newark about this situation here!

(LIGHTS UP LEFT AND RIGHT PAGE)

GIRL I rather think we're being told allright.
 BOY Yeah.
 GIRL You know, I've never given much thought to Negroes before tonight.
 BOY You and me both.
 GIRL I imagin all people are a little bit prejudiced one way or another. If you know what I mean?
 BOY Yeah, I know what you mean.
 GIRL But this Medical Board at the City Hospital. I wonder what kind of men they really are?
 LOUDSPEAKER They're all eminent physicians, each a specialist in his own field of medicine.
 GIRL How many are on the Board?
 LOUDSPEAKER There are thirteen on the Executive Committee. Twenty others complete the membership. In all, there are thirty-three men on the Medical Board.
 GIRL And all of them are prejudiced against Negroes?
 LOUDSPEAKER No. As a matter of fact, there are men on the Board who would welcome the presence of Negro physicians on the Staff at City Hospital.
 BOY So what's the hold up?
 LOUDSPEAKER Four men.
 BOY I don't get it.
 LOUDSPEAKER Out of thirty-three men, four actually are in control of the Board. And they run it like a totalitarian machine.

BOY They know how to keep the other fellows in line, huh?

LOUDSPEAKER Yes, to the disadvantage of Newark.

BOY To the disadvantage of all Newark? Or just Negro Newark?

MAN (TO BOY) What's the matter with you? Aren't Negroes a part of Newark?

BOY Yeah, sure! All I meant was: Do white people like you and me get cracked over the head with the dirt end of the stick?

LOUDSPEAKER You shall soon know.

BOY Another thing: What about this Inter-racial Council? Did it back off the issue?

LOUDSPEAKER Not one inch! On March, 21, 1941, a Committee from the Inter-racial again met with a Committee representing the Medical Board.

BOY Yeah? So what happened?

(FADE IN LIGHT RIGHT DISCLOSING DOCTOR E, THE ELDERLY PHYSICIAN)

LOUDSPEAKER After evading the issue and wasting time, Doctor E came out point blank with this statement:

DOCTOR E You people might as well know how the Medical Board feels. White physicians will not work with Negro physicians at City Hospital!

(FADE LIGHT RIGHT)

BOY The old boy was sure point blank.

MAN But how can they get away with that sort of thing in a tax supported institution?

~~LOUDSPEAKER~~ A few days later, the inter-racial ~~meeting~~ ~~discussion~~ Doctor E.

LOUDSPEAKER A few days later, the Inter-racial Council received a letter from Doctor E.

BOY What did the old boy do? Come around to the American way of life?

LOUDSPEAKER Doctor E said: that the Members of the Medical Board gave their services to the patients of City Hospital, free of any charge.

BOY Yeah? And then what?

LOUDSPEAKER Therefore they had the right to dictate with whom they would be professionally associated.

MRL Dictate?

LOUDSPEAKER Exactly.

BOY I was wrong. The old boy must have spent the weekend with Hitler. (CHANGE OF TONE) So he's dictating, huh?

MRL Just a minute. What about Negro doctors? Are they competent?

LOUDSPEAKER On March 19th, 1941, the Medical Director at City Hospital had this to say on that subject: He was speaking to a Negro writer and a Negro Presbyterian minister.

(FADE IN LIGHT RIGHT DISCLOSING MEDICAL DIRECTOR.)

MED. DIRECTOR The Negro physician in Newark is just as competent as the white physician in Newark.

(FADE IN DOCTOR A UP LEFT AS MED. DIRECTOR DEPARTS.)

DOCTOR A Then why don't you let us practice medicine in your hospital?

MR. DIRECTOR Negroes should not attempt to force the issue of color.

DOCTOR A My god, man! We want to help our people! And how can we do it without hospital facilities? Negro doctors have made valuable contributions to medicine elsewhere. Let the Negro doctor see what he can contribute in Newark to Newark.

DOCTOR B Doctor Daniel Williams ^{of Chicago} a Negro, performed the first successful operation on the human heart. It is called suturing the pericardium of the heart.

DOCTOR A Negroes teach medicine in the best of medical schools.

DOCTOR B For instance, there is Dr. Hinton at Harvard. The Hinton Test For Syphilis is recognized as being more sensitive, more delicate and more accurate than either the Kahn or the Wasserman Tests.

DOCTOR A Doctor T. K. Lawless, the great skin specialist, teaches at ~~the University of Chicago~~ ^{North Western University}.

DOCTOR B Doctor Louis T. Wright, surgeon, the physician who developed the intracutaneous method of vaccination, is the editor of the chapter on Head Surgery which is included in Scudder's book on Fractures, a text which all medical students use.

MR. DIRECTOR If I were you, I wouldn't attempt to force the color issue at Newark City Hospital.

DOCTOR A Why! Do Negro doctors get kicked around like this in other cities?

DOCTOR BROWN Detroit, New York City, Chicago, Cleveland, and
 as of January 1st, 1941
 even Jersey City have Negro doctors, nurses and
 interns in their municipal hospitals. Letters
 from these institutions testify to the fact that
 the community as a whole benefits from the pro-
 fessional services rendered by these Negro men
 and women.

BOY Say listen! Where's the rake-off to this Medical
 Board at City Hospital?

GIRL What do you mean? They give their services gratis.

BOY Look, sister. When guys get too free with their
 time and talent, there's always a cut somewhere.

MED. DIRECTOR Aren't you going a bit too far there?

BOY Oh, I don't know. I saw in the papers not long
 ago that a Federal jury in Washington had found
 the American Medical Association guilty of Anti-
 Trust Law violation.

MED. DIRECTOR What has that to do with the Newark City Hospital?

DOCTOR A The Members of the Medical Board at City Hospital
 undoubtedly profit in terms of prestige.

DOCTOR BROWN And they get new patients.

GIRL How?

DOCTOR BROWN An indigent is not always an indigent. He remem-
 bers when he gets money and is in need of medical
 treatment.

DOCTOR A Indigents have friends who have money and are in
 need of medical treatment.

BOY Ah! So that's the way it works.

(FADE LIGHTS OF LEFT AND RIGHT)

GIRL And people like Mandy and her family have to just take it, I suppose?

BOY I wouldn't want to meet up with that little Boot-black twenty years from now.

GIRL I wonder how many other young Negroes feel as he does?

BOY You know it would be a hell of a thing if some Negro doctor around here thought up a cure for some illness that hasn't been cured yet and....

GIRL And then didn't have the use of hospital facilities to....

BOY Yeah! (CHANGE OF TONE) I'm white. And you're white. And some time or other we're gonna get sick. And if a doctor's got the cure....and I'm bad off sick....I don't give a damn about his color. I want to get well.

LOOBSIE BAKER There is just one more thing we have to say here.

BOY Okay! Let's hear it.

LOOBSIE BAKER On March 2nd, 1941, Commissioner Pearce R. Franklin attended a meeting at the home of Mrs. ~~Ross and Stewart~~ in Newark, New Jersey. About fifty Negro beauticians were present at that meeting, to hear Mr. Franklin speak on matters relative to their profession.

GIRL What's a beauticians' meeting got to do with the City Hospital?

LOU DOOR FRANKLIN Mr. Franklin is Commissioner of Public Works, the Department which nominally controls the City Hospital.

GIRL Oh, I see.

BOY I suppose somebody put the question of the City Hospital to the Commissioner.

LOU DOOR FRANKLIN Mr. Franklin was questioned about the matter. And his exact words were taken down in short hand and then edited for the very purpose for which you are here.

(FADE IN RIGHT: COMMISSIONER AND DOCTOR A.)

DOCTOR A Well Commissioner, what about this appointment of negroes to the City Hospital Board?

COMMISSIONER Well that's not under our jurisdiction.

DOCTOR A You mean to say the Commissioners have nothing to say about how the City Hospital is run? The people pay taxes to support that hospital.

COMMISSIONER Well, you see that's something which has existed long before my time. In fact, ever since the hospital was established. The doctors on the board as a matter of course have their sons or relatives succeed them. If a doctor dies, automatically his son or some other relative succeeds him to the board.

DOCTOR A That isn't Democracy at all then, is it?

COMMISSIONER Well something like that.

(FADE LEFT RIGHT.)

(FADE IN LIGHT UP LEFT DISCLOSING DOCTORS B, C, D, AND E.)

30f

That sort of blacks out the American Way of Life in Newark doesn't it?

(FADE IN LIGHT RIGHT DISCLOSING MALE NEGRO IN LOINCLOTH, THE SAME NEGRO AS WE SAW IN FIRST EPISODE IN PART ONE. HE HOLDS LARGE CYMBAL IN HAND.)

LOUDSPEAKER

Blacks it out! Mr. Smith it's night in Newark. Dark, black night. It's midnight in Newark. Midnight, without star or moon. It's night in Newark and the sky is spread with clouds. Clouds, dark and evil and sinister. Clouds slung low, hanging deep into the very bowels of the earth.

(DURING ABOVE SCENE, THE CYMBAL ENTERS FROM LEFT AND BEATS THE CYMBAL WITH HAMMER. WE REPEAT THIS WITH FIVE OTHER LITTLE GIRLS AND SIX TINY BOYS UNTIL COME TO, BEATING CYMBAL FIVE TIMES. WE REPEAT BETWEEN BOYS AND GIRLS, UNTIL FIRST THE LEFT ENTRANCE THEN THE RIGHT ENTRANCE.)

(FADE IN LIGHT RIGHT DISCLOSING BOOTBLACK AND ANOTHER GIRL.)

BOOTBLACK

Just wait 'til I grow up!

ANOTHER GIRL

What you gonna do?

BOOTBLACK

I just ain't gonna bow down and take it!

ANOTHER GIRL

There's death in your soul! Quick death! Violent death!

BOOTBLACK

I got to kill!

ANOTHER GIRL

Yeah! You got to kill allright. Kind breeds kind. Type breeds type. And boy, you was born dead. So what kin you spawn but death! They hate you. And you got to back. And what is hate but death!

(DOCTOR A HAS STEPPED INTO LIGHT,
RIGHT, WITH BOOTBLACK AND ANOTHER
GIRL.)

DOCTOR A (POINTING AT FOUR WHITE PHYSICIANS UP LEFT) Gentlemen, you hear! Some of our young are talking this way. But all our young are thinking this way.

LOUDSPEAKER On March 27th, 1941, the Newark Star-Ledger commented on the situation at City Hospital in an editorial using these words: "It would seem that when a Negro succeeds in running the gauntlet of economic and social difficulties to qualify for the practice of medicine, he is likely to be exceptionally qualified professionally and to possess in addition qualities of constructive group leadership"

DOCTOR A But how can I lead or even advise if I, too, am hated?

ANOTHER GIRL You can't lead! And my little brother can't win his battle. Death breeds death when the living are born dead!

DOCTOR A (TO ANOTHER GIRL) And you, too, are dead!

ANOTHER GIRL But full of poison! Slow poison!

DOCTOR A I could cure you!

ANOTHER GIRL (POINTING AT FOUR WHITE PHYSICIANS) But they won't let you! So let me walk with my poison in the streets and clasp their sons and their brothers close in my arms....when it's dark in Newark! And we'll all drown in my poison!

LOUDSPEAKER The Newark Star-Ledger said in its editorial: "This problem is not academic. Events in Europe have demonstrated how dangerous neglected problems of

LOUDSPEAKER
(Cont'd)

this nature can be. It is high time to reach down to the lowest economic level of our population to offer convincing proof that even to them, democracy offers greater opportunity than any other system of government!"

DOCTOR E

(SHOUTING) We will not have a single nigger doctor in the City Hospital! And that is final! And if you attempt to force one in, the Medical Board is able to precipitate the ultimate in discipline!

DOCTOR A

What manner of discipline will you precipitate?

DOCTOR E

We warn you! You shall see!

DOCTOR A

Have you forgotten? A hospital is a house of mercy

DOCTOR E

No matter! If you put one of your kind in the City Hospital....every white physician, every white intern, every white nurse will walk out!

DOCTOR A

That's barbarism!

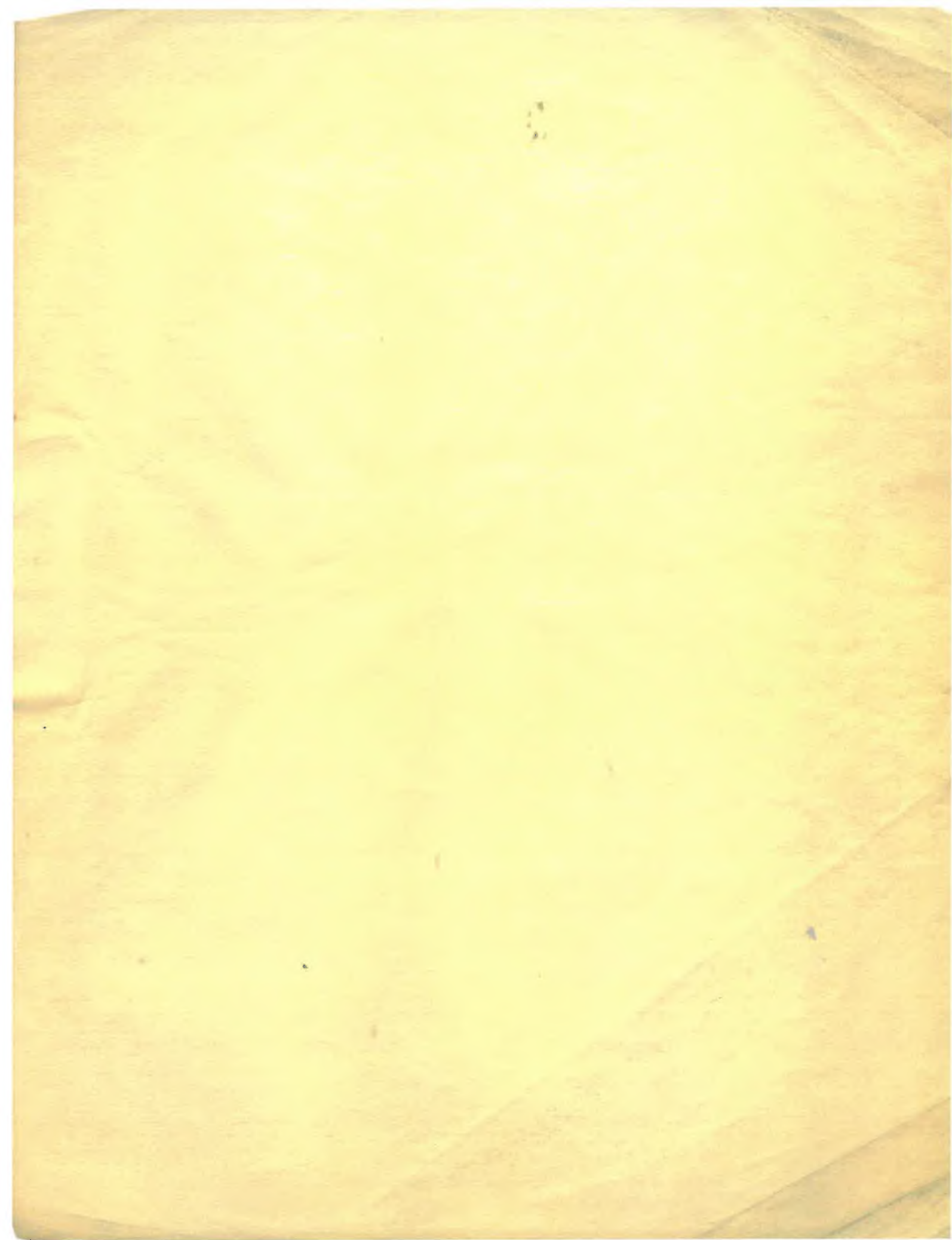
(LAST CHILD STRIKES CYMBAL TWELFTH TIME.)

LOUDSPEAKER

It's midnight over Newark! Whether we stop the clock or urge the morning to come....the morning bright and clear and radiant with the sun....is a matter for the people. The people of Newark. All the Smiths and Joneses in Newark must make that decision. That is truly the Democratic Way. But now....it's midnight over Newark!

(FADE ALL LIGHTS DURING LAST SPEECH

(CURTAIN)



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